



'OLD PIRATES'

Meeting No.1 - May 2019



Minutes of "Old Pirates" Meeting held at the Clubrooms on Tuesday 13th April 2019

Present: Big Buccaneer (BB) and crew Heather, Gypo, Rick, Rex, Bex, Fairy, Witty and Ash as an observer.

Apologies: Doddsy. This apology set off a discussion with Rick noting that it was unlikely that in the context of the club's 108-year history, that any committee member had missed 10 consecutive meetings. He said that even Bill Wilson and John McNearny got to meetings on time after feeding their pigs. Ash said that in his opinion Doddsy's 10th absence was a club milestone worthy of recording. Fairy commented that he also considered Doddsy's failure to attend ten meetings to be a significant feat that should be acknowledged if not celebrated. BB said that it was a staggering 'fall-from-grace' given that Doddsy had for so long hungered after the Big Buccaneer position – but he commented *"it shows that very few have the stamina, intelligence and sheer guts required to attain the top job"*. He further commented that it was a travesty that Doddsy wasn't awarded the Jack Gray cup this year as *"he is clearly the worst performing Old Pirate 'by a country mile"*. BB then stated that he didn't want to take anything away from Lewi who was awarded the Jack Gray cup this season. He said that Lewi's ambitions to become a Local-Body politician were admirable however he noted *"that once again there is a huge gap between those that seek power, and those of us who achieve power through natural leadership and ability"*. He noted that his ancestry can be traced back to Sir Winston Churchill who he maintained was a great-great uncle once-removed on his aunty Thelma's side. He said, *"that through good breeding, exceptional intelligence and sound education, distinction and fame become inevitable"*. He continued saying that *"based on such criteria Doddsy never had a show of succeeding as did none of the motley alcohol-fuelled crew of Old Pirates"*. BB concluded by saying that he often felt Churchillian blood running through his veins and *"many will recognise that my speeches often reflect this sensation"*.

Financials: Heather detailed Old Pirates financial situation. She said that the account has a balance of \$6000.00 and we have 104 financial members. Heather commented that Old Pirates membership remains rock-solid year-on-year which she said was 'really, really nice'. Gypo questioned whether Heather's attitude to collecting subs could be construed as bullying. He said that he was a bit late in paying his sub and he received a call from Heather which he described as 'threatening'. This led to a broad discussion with Witty suggesting that Gypo had transgressed by dragging the chain on payment and frankly he would get no sympathy from him. Bex agreed saying that Gypo has become very PC lately and she personally would support charging Gypo interest on his late payment. BB said that as long as things didn't get too physical, he had no problem with Heather slightly 'roughing-up' members to get them to pay their subs. Bex then moved a motion which stated, *"that Old Pirates support Heather's 'heavy-handed' approach to collecting subscriptions"*. The vote was passed on a show of hands with 8 in support and 1 against the Motion. (Gypo).

Correspondence Inward:

1. A letter received from Marge Basham saying that her ankles had been bitten by a flea in the clubrooms after the Tauranga Sports game. She said that Scott Tamihana's dog was in the vicinity and she thought that the dog might be infested with fleas. She stated that "as an Old Pirate member I would ask that a presence of fleas in the clubrooms be investigated with emphasis on Scott Tamihana's dog".
2. A letter from Keith (Fred) Miller stating that he did not think that the clubrooms were adequately heated and that he was often cold which was not socially conducive to good after-match festivity. He said at times he was close to suffering from Hypothermia.
3. A letter received from Jeff Carter saying that 'Old Pirates' was more than just a group of club supporters. He said that it was more like a religious movement with great fundamentalist principles. He likened Old Pirates to 'another-coming' and in his letter he suggested that Old Pirates members consider a secret hand-shake in the style of a secret fraternity. He said he would like BB and the Crew to ask all Old Pirates for secret hand-shake suggestions

Correspondence Outward:

1. A letter sent to Marge Basham suggesting that she might consider wearing long trousers and socks to the clubrooms as it would be difficult to determine if Scott Tamihana's dog had fleas or not. The letter advised Marge that veterinarian Steve Woolly will be contacted and asked if he could check Scotts dog and provide a report on his findings for the next meeting.
2. A letter to Keith (Fred) Miller suggesting that wearing appropriate winter attire would assist. Heather suggested that he might like to consider socks and shoes instead of jandals or alternatively join Pilates or something similar. BB requested that the letter should inform Fred that if he did happen to suffer hypothermia there would be several members trained in First-Aid available to assist.
3. A letter to WBOPDC councilor Mike Lally, Russell Baker and Fuzz McLeod (all original Old Pirates) asking them to refrain from discussing their exploits during the Easter weekend Buccaneer tournament in Kaitaia in April of 1969. It has been reported to BB that some of the conversation was of an erotic nature and those who overheard the discussion described the comments by the above-mentioned members as unsavory bordering on lewd.
4. A letter sent to Jeff Carter saying that his secret 'Old Pirates' hand-shake' suggestion struck a positive chord with the Crew and that all members would be asked for their views. Heather commented that when considering the various secret hand-shake options, consideration should be given to those who normally use their left-hand as they should not be disadvantaged. BB said the Crew would understand that.

Minutes of the last meeting: Read and confirmed.

Matters arising: BB said he was particularly pleased to see Lewi receive the 2019 Jack Gray cup for overall best *incompetence*. He said that the description of Lewi's attempt to enter Local Body politics during the recent trophy presentation was an accurate reflection of "how stupid 'ordinary people' can



be". Apparently at a social event and clearly after a few drinks, Lewi announced his intention to enter local body politics although he was unsure whether to stand for the Te Puke Community Board or the WBOPDC.

- *When asked what his platform would be he said he didn't understand the question*
- *When asked if he had a policy he said "things need tidying up"*
- *When asked what he would tidy up he said "things"*
- *When asked what specific things he said "things that need tidying up"*

Heather said that she felt thoroughly happy that Lewi had received the Jack Gray Cup. She said that she gets tingly feelings at cup-presentations because *"it's so nice when really lovely young men step up to the plate to serve"*. She said she regards Lewi in the same vein as one of those dinky-di Aussie politicians that give so much to that country. She said Lewi is just like her uncle Bob from up in Kennedy-Moolumbalah who is a politician up there. You can see Heathers uncle Bob in action on this link. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MOEMzZR_mk

Heather said that uncle Bob was indeed an unsung hero who deserved to be recognised for his outstanding efforts. She said that BB reminded her very much of Bob, who like Lance Hill, the Hills-Hoist cloths-line inventor is one of Australia's heroes. She went on to say that many people don't know how many great things were invented in Australia quite apart from the Hill-Hoist clothes-line and the boomerang. She said, that for the record, Australia also invented the Ugg-boot, the first wire-bound note-pad, the wine casket, zinc nose-ointment and Marmite. She continued saying that another uncle, Sam (who was nick-named 'Chops' at primary school) was their sheep- farmer neighbour and the Meat-Board representative for the Mujeeba district when she was growing up on the Moorawobbi Station up in the Territory. She said that he was another Aussie politician who she greatly admired for his patriotism and common sense. Watch 'Chops' on this link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtWVJikNnx4>

BB thanked Heather for what he described as *"yet another insightful episode"*. He said he found Heather's interludes relevant and immensely interesting however he noted that the Crew was unlikely to have appreciated, let alone understood, the very meaningful material that Heather had presented. He continued by saying that *"her comments are always of interest and articulated in a sensible and appropriate manner"*. He said that *"in contrast, I am so often subject to nonsensical and impudent remarks made by the Crew whose collective IQ would not match that of a laboratory test rodent"*.



General Business

1. Concern was expressed by Fairy at the random Letters to the Editor circulating around the club. Fairy said that he considered some to be wildly inaccurate and others mere scuttlebutt. He said that letters of support for BB were out of order.

BB responded saying that he was only human..... which caused an outburst of derisive laughter from the crew followed by comments such as "you've got to be kidding!") BB continued saying criticism of him was both mis-guided and offensive however he was very pleased to be mentioned in one of the letters "in a most flattering and gratifying manner". Rick said that he detected a degree of Dowlingism in the first letter which he put down to a certain member simply having too much time on his hands. He said if this dubious character has time to be writing letters he may as well start doing the Old Pirates newsletters. He continued saying that "on reflection, anyone who openly praises BB would not be a fit candidate to do the newsletter so forget that idea".

Rex raised the recently circulated letter from the President which made reference to the great job BB is doing. Rex described the letter as 'stench on a stick' saying it was a slimy letter circulated by sycophant bootlicker in support of a dictator.

Heather said she was most uncomfortable with the tone of the discussion and needed it recorded in the Minutes that she had received a long-distance call from 1967 All Black and Old Pirates member Arthur Jennings to say that he has become worried about the abrasive nature of newsletters and Letters to the Editor. Apparently, Arthur said that it appeared from his home in Los Angeles that BB was doing a good job for the club and he questioned why he was receiving such vitriolic if not toxic remarks from his Crew. He continued saying that negativity is a destructive attribute and that he hoped that BB could withstand some of the withering attacks on his integrity. Heather said that she told Arthur that BB was very much a fragile, mis-understood individual and that the negativity was generated only by those who did not have the intellectual capacity and academic superiority of BB. She said that she thought that Arthur understood her explanation, but she wasn't that sure. She said that she told Arthur that BB is, in reality, a cuddly kind of individual who has great need of motherly affection.

2. Old Pirates achievements

BB noted that it was important to let all members of Old Pirates know what was being done with their subscriptions since 'Old Pirates' was established. Here's the list.....



- Subscriptions are used to financially support injured players.
- Preserved the club's history since 1910.
- Created a history corner where memorabilia is displayed.
- Re-organised the internal clubhouse photographs and jersey displays to provide some logicity.
- Established the Champions wall.
- All windows tinted to prevent sun-damage to photographs and memorabilia.
- Installed a modern Tarnix camera security-system to protect the club and its property.
- Initiated the grandstand project and also a fundraiser that achieved a \$6000.00 result. This was the Old Pirates grandstand charity auction and social event.
- Replaced worn carpet.
- Provided the players-sponsors board.
- Redecorated the clubhouse with the club's colours.
- Purchased a \$1500,00 Zip water heater for the kitchen.
- Maintained a steady in-take of good red-wine at each meeting – with the exception being Doddsy's \$7.00 bargain-bin Banrock Station which has now been banned.

New initiatives in the pipeline.....

- Repair the stone wall at the front of the clubhouse.
- Repair loose and missing cobble-stones around the clubhouse.
- Re-paint the Pirate logo on the roadside wall of the clubrooms.
- Investigating a quality indoor-outdoor speaker system.
- A plan is afoot amongst the Crew to oust BB – this dirty little scheme will be revealed in due course.....

3. **The Grandstand Project**

Whilst technically the responsibility of the Grandstand sub-committee, it is timely to provide an up-date via this newsletter.

July 2017 is a long way back. That's when we first approached Christchurch City Council to tender for seats from Lancaster Park which was being demolished. We paid \$10.00 for a seat that was probably worth close to \$180.00. Since arranging the transport and storage of the seats no time has been lost in fundraising. Currently the club has accumulated around \$270,000.00 – not an insubstantial sum of money. However, a fair way off the 500k+ needed for the project.

However, to have achieved \$270,000.00 is pleasing. This amount is a combination of funds raised by the club, contributions from supporters and sponsors as well as success with funding applications lodged with the Te Puke Community Board, WBOPDC and NZ



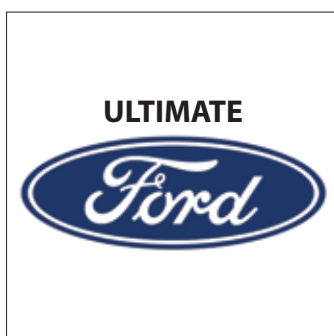
5. **The Buccaneer Tie:** Out of the mists of history has emerged a very valuable artefact. Veteran club member Russell Baker has produced what might be the only Buccaneer Tournament presentational tie in existence. This tie was awarded to a player who competed in 10 Buccaneer tournaments. For the uninitiated, the Buccaneer tournament was played each Easter between the North Island Pirates clubs from Gisborne, Rotorua, Taihape, Te Puke, Tokoroa and Kaitaia. Each Easter one of the above clubs alternated in hosting the tournament. The 4-day weekend was a low-key occasion which was known for its polite social intercourse, moderate alcohol intake and exemplary behaviour. Wives were supportive of their husbands or partners departure to the various tournament destinations. All in all, the tournament was an example of rugby civility and graciousness. Such standards were exemplified by rugby personalities and morally-responsible leaders such as Peter MacLoughlin, Tui Tibble, Howard Aspin and Graeme Sigley. Youngsters such as Tommy Gourlay and Bruce Wills were initiated into rugby' traditional and controlled environment through attending Buccaneer tournaments.



In concluding this newsletter, a special mention of the Premiers and Development teams. Both are having another superb season delighting club supporters and impressing visiting teams and their supporters. From Old Pirates -congratulations the club is very proud of you all !

To all involved in netball and Junior rugby, again our congratulations for the great organisation that goes on behind the scene – and for the outstanding performances on the court or field.

See you in the next newsletter.



Community Trust. Combined, these three organisations allocated \$160k to our cause. Funding applications are currently lodged with TECT and NZ Lotteries Board. We wait with some trepidation on the outcome of these two applications.

The project sub-committee's decision to appoint Letts Construction for the build has been a good one. Letts has proved to be an excellent partner and the level of cooperation has been excellent – including adjusting, re-working and adapting the grandstand model to fit with the club's ability to attain the capital required.

The sub-committee has a target of \$400k for the project to be commenced. We are \$130k off this objective and we will be knocking hard on the doors of larger corporates who thrive on the local horticulture industry in sectors such as chemicals, banking, fertiliser, trading & servicing etc. We are closing the gap – but any contribution is greatly appreciated. A July start to this project might seem a big ask – but hey, PIRATES don't lose the big ones!!

4. **The Pirates logo:** is now appearing on vehicles all around Te Puke. These were designed by non-other than Jamie Gordon. Well done Jamie!!

If you don't have a club logo on your car or Ute, then ask Bex – she has them available.

